sent proposals to declare Simlipal, Satkosia and Sunabeda Reserve Forests, as Tiger reserve forests; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Simlipal reserve forest has already been declared as a Tiger Reserve during 1973-74 Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal for inclusion of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve during the Tenth Five Year Plan, and no formal proposal has been received for Sunabeda Sanctuary.

Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority

†2402. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Authority, called Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority, was constituted under the Pollution Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the number of schemes implemented under the above Act, for the protection of Taj Mahal, alongwith its impact on curbing the pollution; and

(c) the amount spent on this Authority and the above schemes, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has constituted the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. For the proper protection of Taj Mahal, schemes have been sanctioned for improvement of water supply, drainage, sewerage, solid waste management, electricity supply, parking, construction of bye-pass and improvement of Master Plan roads, plantation and setting up of ambient air monitoring stations. As a result of the implementation of various schemes, the air quality of Agra City has improved. The annual average level of Sulpur Dioxide has come down from 21 ug/m^3 in 1991 to 15 ug/m^3 in 2001, the Nitrogen Oxide level from 12 ug/m^3 in 1991 to 10 ug/m^3 in 2001 and the SPM level has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

generally remained unchanged. As reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the total expenditure upto October, 2002 on various schemes is Rs. 259.20 crores, which includes the amount sanctioned by the Union Government.

Clearance to Bt. Cotton

2403. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conditional commercial clearance was given by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee on Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the conditions;

(c) whether the claim of Monsanto-Mahyco Seed Company that Bt. Cotton was effective pest-resistant crop, was false in the fields of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where Bt. Cotton was sown;

(d) whether the conditional clearance given to Genetically Modified Bt. Cotton would be withdrawn, in the light of above facts;

(e) whether Competent Authority is considering clearance to Transgenic Mustard; and

(f) if so, the details of complete trials of Genetically Modified Seeds, Bt. Cotton and Transgenic Mustard on bio-safety and the effect on non-GM crop?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir; The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) accorded conditional clearance for introduction of three Bt. cotton hybrids namely BT MECH 162, BT MECH 184, BT MECH 12 into the environment for a period of three years from April 2002 to March 2005. The conditions, *inter-alia,* include plantation of a non-Bt refuge around the periphery of the Bt fields equivalent to five rows of non_Bt cotton variety or 20% of the total sown area, monitoring the susceptibility of bollworms to Bt gene *vis-a-vis* baseline susceptibility data by an agency identified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, undertaking studies on possible impacts on non-target insects and crops, developing plans for Bt based Integrated Pest Management, developing and depositing with the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Research (NBPGR), the DNA fingerprints of the